REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

OF

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

ON THE

BY-ELECTION OF 26 NOVEMBER 1984

IN THE FOURTH ELECTORAL

DISTRICT OF KINGS

Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island

4 December 1984

The Honourable Marion Reid
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Prince Edward Island

Dear Madam Speaker:

I have the honour to submit the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to Section 122 of the Election Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1974, Cap. E-1 as amended by S.P.E.I. 1984, Cap. 19.

In my report to the Legislative Assembly on the provincial general election of 27 September 1982, my main recommendation was that the Election Act should be amended to provide for an enumeration before every general election. Recommendations with respect to the use of the Social Insurance Number, proxy voting, and advance polls were also made. The Legislative Assembly saw fit to appoint a Committee of the House to study these and other recommendations. As a result of the Committee's deliberations, amendments were passed and proclaimed in force effective 29 September 1984.

I am pleased to report that the amendments have made the conduct and administration of an election much easier. In particular, providing for an enumeration before every election ensures up-to-date lists of electors and, thereby, reduces the workload for all parties involved in the electoral process.

A Writ of Election was issued on the 29th of October 1984 with Polling Day on the 26th of November 1984 to fill the vacant Assemblyman seat in the Fourth Electoral District of Kings.

It is interesting to compare the number of rejected ballots in this by-election with the number in the 1979 and 1982 general elections for the Fourth Electoral District of Kings (Assemblyman). The following chart illustrates my point.

	Number of Voters on List	Number of Votes Cast	Number of Rejected Ballots
1979 General Election	3,052	2,720	79
1982 General Election	3,299	2,713	199
1984 By-Election	3,307	2,665	15

Is it possible that having to cast two ballots (one for Councillor and one for Assemblyman) in the general elections results in confusion on the part of some electors?

I also wish to inform you, Madam Speaker, that I have submitted my resignation as Chief Electoral Officer to Premier James Lee. It is my opinion that the positions of Deputy Attorney General and Chief Electoral Officer are not compatible and that some other person should be appointed Chief Electoral Officer. I am, of course, prepared to assist the new Chief Electoral Officer in assuming his or her new duties. Accordingly, I would like to express my appreciation to the Members of the Legislative Assembly for their assistance and co-operation in performing my duties since I have been Chief Electoral Officer. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation to the sixteen Returning Officers, each of whom has worked long hours and, with efficiency and impartiality, administered elections in their respective electoral districts. The Province is well served by such able men and women.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Currie
Chief Electoral Officer

Poll-by-Poll Results

Fourth Electoral District of Kings

Returning Officer: Mrs. Vivian Beck

Poll No.	Name of Poll	Number of Names on Electors' List	Ballots Cast			Rejected
			Billard P.C.	Bruce Lib.	Morgan N.D.P.	
1	Kilmuir	191	64	86	4	4
2	Montague South	327	86	123	19	0
3	Lower Montague	310	105	129	9	1
4	Murray Harbour East	346	124	131	19	1
5A	Murray Harbour West	197	60	100	5	1
5B	Murray Harbour West	175	61	64	12	0
6	High Bank	152	47	78	2	1
7	Murray River South	280	77	125	31	3
8	Murray River North	295	104	141	11	1
9	Glen William	246	82	91	11	0
10	St. Mary's Road	254	65	115	14	0
11A	Montague South East	190	34	80	10	1
11B	Montague South East	288	73	105	6	1
11C	Riverview Manor	56	16	21	0	0
Advance			63	39	8	1
TOTAL			1,061	1,428	161	15